

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of providing a device, the cost of which is covered by a third party payor, to a health care facility and obtaining payment for the device from the third party payor, the method comprising the steps of:

- submitting a request for the device from the health care facility to the
5 third party payor for authorization of payment;
relaying the request for the device from the third party payor to a transaction facilitator, the transaction facilitator being separate from the third party payor and the health care facility;
utilizing the transaction facilitator for contacting a manufacturer for
10 the device to order the device, wherein the manufacturer delivers the device to the health care facility; and
generating a cost claim for the device from the transaction facilitator to the third party payor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction facilitator includes an on-line website, wherein the step of relaying the request for the device from the third party payor to the transaction facilitator includes the third party payor electronically contacting the website.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
receiving payment for the claim from the third party payor; and
transferring funds to the manufacturer for payment for the device.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of submitting a request for the device to the third party payor includes the step of the health care facility electronically connecting to the website of the transaction facilitator to submit the request for the device.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of ordering the device includes generating an electronic message from the website of the transaction facilitator to the manufacturer indicating that an order has been placed for the device.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of the device manufacturer accessing the website of the transaction facilitator to receive the order placed by the third party payor.

7. A method of providing a prescribed medical device covered by insurance to a healthcare facility and obtaining payment for the medical device from an insurance provider, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 submitting a request for the medical device from the healthcare facility to the insurance provider for authorization;
- relaying the request for the medical device from the insurance provider to a transaction facilitator, the transaction facilitator being separate from the insurance provider and the healthcare facility;
- 10 utilizing the transaction facilitator to electronically contact a manufacturer for the medical device to order the medical device, wherein the manufacturer delivers the medical device to the healthcare facility; and
- generating a claim for the medical device from the transaction facilitator to the insurance provider.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the transaction facilitator includes an on-line website, wherein the step of relaying the request for the medical device from the insurance provider to the transaction facilitator includes the insurance provider electronically contacting the website.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
receiving payment for the claim from the insurance provider; and

transferring funds to the device manufacturer for payment for the medical device.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of submitting a request for the medical device to the insurance company includes the step of the healthcare facility electronically connecting to the website of the transaction facilitator to submit the request for the medical device.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of ordering the medical device includes generating an electronic message from the website of the transaction facilitator to the device manufacturer indicating that an order has been placed for a medical device.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of the manufacturer accessing the website of the transaction facilitator to receive the order placed by the insurance provider.